

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are currently pending. Claims 1, 2, 10, and 11 are currently amended. Claims 18-20 are newly added. The changes and additions to the claims do not add new matter and are supported by the originally filed specification at least on page 15, lines 9-23; page 1, lines 18-19; page 11, lines 23-25; and Figure 1.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-5 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Saito (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0026553); Claims 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Saito in view of Kumiko (Japanese Patent No. JP9064811); and Claims 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Saito in view of Edwards et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,684,348, hereafter “Edwards”).

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicants’ representatives on September 18, 2007. During the interview, the differences between the claims and the applied art were discussed. Further, clarifying claim amendments, similar to those presented herewith were also discussed. In addition, the Examiner indicated that the discussed changes now presented for formal consideration would appear to overcome the applied art. The arguments presented during the interview are substantially summarized below.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 1 as being anticipated by Saito, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to Claim 1 overcomes this ground of rejection. Claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*,

at least two dedicated paths provided for one of the plurality of function blocks, said paths configured to transmit input data and output data associated with said one of the plurality of function blocks.

Applicants' Figure 1 illustrates this principle in a non-limiting embodiment. In Figure 1, each function block (102, 104, 202, and 204) has two dedicated output paths configured to transmit debug information for debugging the signal processor 100. The two paths for a function block are for transmitting respective input data and output data of the function block.¹ Advantageously, this feature allows each function block to continue to output the debug information in an arbitrary length (size) including input data and/or output data to the outside of the signal processor serially from an arbitrary function block.² Thus, a large amount of information required for debugging can be outputted regardless of a limited amount of a memory provided inside or outside a function block.³

Saito describes a method for monitoring regions in a processor circuit for bugs. Saito shows in Figs. 4-9, and 11 that functional blocks 21 send and receive signals outside the circuit through election means 30 or through signal selection circuit 32.⁴ However, Saito shows in Figs. 4-9, and 11, that each functional block 21 has only a single path connected to selection means 30 or to signal selection circuit 32.

Thus, Saito fails to disclose or suggest a signal processor where there are *at least two dedicated paths provided for one of the plurality of function blocks, said paths configured to transmit input data and output data associated with said one of the plurality of function blocks*, as defined by amended Claim 1.

Kumiko and Edwards have been considered but fail to remedy the deficiencies of Saito as discussed above in regards to amended Claim 1.

M.P.E.P. §2143.03 requires that to establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested in the prior art. Therefore, with the applied art not having the advantageous features noted above, it is respectfully

¹ See Specification, page 13, line 5 to page 14, line 5.

² Id., at page 15, lines 9-23

³ Id.

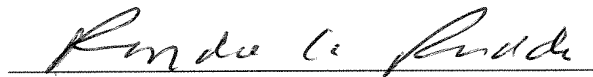
⁴ See Saito, at para. 32.

submitted that amended Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably distinguish over Saito, Kumiko, and Edwards, either alone or taken in proper combination.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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